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09/761,538

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William J. Dally

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05/17/2006

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EXAMINER

CHANG, RICHARD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2616

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/761,538

Applicant(s)

DALLY, WILLIAM J.

Examiner

Richard Chang

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-20 and 22-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-20, 22-52 and 54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 53 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01/16/2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's arguments, filed on 03/02/2006, with respect to claims 1-4, 6-20 and 22-52 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 5 and 21 had been canceled.

Claims 53-54 are newly added.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 16-20 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent No. 6,693,902 ("Sahlman et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,361 ("McMillen et al.").

Regarding claim 1, 17 and 33, Sahlman et al. teach a digital cross connect (a Cross-connection architecture for SDH signals) comprising plural switching stages, each stage having plural switches receiving plural frames of time multiplexed input data and switching the data in time and space (a SDH frame based time-and-space division switch groups where time switch realizes the

rearrangement of the time slots or bytes in accordance with the route selection calculated by the decoder processor control before they are transmitted to the space switch),

wherein configuration switching is initiated by a prepare-to-switch signal propagated from a master switch to all switches of an output stage and the input stage, the at least one switch then propagating the configuration select signal (an SDH DXC can transmit traffic between different SDH levels and connect traffic between different signals and the use of the cross connect also includes a possibility for remote control of routing, initialization of reserve routes, connection from one signal to several signals) (See Fig. 1, Col. 4, line 62 to Col. 6, line 36).

Sahlman et al. teach substantially all the claimed invention but did not disclose expressly the particular application involving limitations of

“configuration storage at each switch storing a time/space configuration for the switch” and

“all switches switching configuration to the stored time/space configuration in frame synchronization at the start of synchronized data frames by synchronizing switches of successive stages to a configuration select signal propagated from at least one switch of an input stage”.

McMillen et al. teach a multistage interconnect network capable of dynamic configuration for all switch nodes wherein connections from the first stage expand in space from input connections, and connections to the final stage concentrate in space to output connections or vice versa (See Fig. 2) and

configuration storage (108 mapping tables) at each switch (12 PM) storing a time/space configuration for the switch (See Col. 40, lines 15-31) and all switches dynamically switching configuration to the stored configuration by synchronizing switches of successive stages to a configuration prepare-to-switch signal (select) propagated from at least one switch of an input stage (via the forward channel 32) (See Fig. 21, Col. 22, lines 19-60).

A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ McMillen et al. in Sahlman et al. in order to obtain a multi-stage digital cross connect switch and to take advantage of providing mapping tables at each switch node storing a configuration for the switch, all switch nodes dynamically switching configuration to the stored configuration by synchronizing switches of successive stages via the forward channel in claims 1, 17 and 33.

The suggestion/motivation to do so would have been to providing mapping tables at each switch node storing a configuration for the switch, all switch nodes dynamically switching configuration to the stored configuration by synchronizing switches of successive stages via the forward channel, as suggested by McMillen et al, Col. 22, lines 19-60 and Col. 40, lines 15-31. At the time the invention was made, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains to combine McMillen et al. with Sahlman et al. to obtain the inventions specified in claims 1, 17 and 33.

Regarding claims 2-4 and 18-20, these claim have limitation that is similar to those of claims 1 and 17 and Sahlman et al. further teach for synchronous transport

Art Unit: 2616

transmission application, inherently the configuration signal is carried via the A1 byte for OAM application, thus it is rejected with the same rationale applied against claims 1 and 17 above.

Regarding claims 16 and 32, this claim have limitation that is similar to those of claims 1 and 17 wherein each switch comprises a time slot interchanger associated with each input and output port thereof and a space switch, thus it is rejected with the same rationale applied against claims 1 and 17above.

4. Claims 6-15, 22-31, 34-52 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent No. 6,693,902 ("Sahlman et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,361 ("McMillen et al.") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,144,297 ("Ohara").

Regarding claims 34-37 and 41, Sahlman et al. and McMillen et al. teach substantially all the claimed invention and further "FIG. 2 it is for example possible to connect STM-1 signals from 16 time switches, and correspondingly the outputs to 16 time switches" (See Fig. 2, Col. 5, lines 1-10), but did not disclose expressly the particular application involving limitations of

"each switch comprising a time slot interchanger associated with each input and output port for connection with SONET STS-M frame" .

Ohara teaches a digital cross connection apparatus (10) containing a Time-Space-Time switch construction enabling SONET ST-M frame application (each switch

Art Unit: 2616

comprising a time slot interchanger associated with each input and output port for connection with SONET STS-M frame) (See Fig. 1, Col. 5, lines 35-41), and

wherein the time slot of the time muxed input are maintained by frame counter output (See Col. 6, lines 25-30).

A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ Ohara in Sahlman et al. and McMillen et al. in order to obtain a multi-stage digital cross connect switch and to take advantage of an expandable time slot interchanger at the input and output interface node in claims 34-37 and 41.

The suggestion/motivation to do so would have been to accommodate a multi-stage digital cross connect switch and to take advantage of an expandable time slot interchanger at the input and output interface node, as suggested by Ohara in Col. 5, lines 35-41 and Col. 6, lines 25-30. At the time the invention was made, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains to combine Ohara with Sahlman et al. and McMillen et al. to obtain the inventions specified in claims 34-37 and 41.

Regarding claims 38-40, these claims have limitation that is similar to those of claim 37 wherein connections from a first stage expand in space from input connections and connections to a second stage concentrate in space to output connections, thus it is rejected with the same rationale applied against claim 37 above.

Regarding claims 42-43 and 52, these claims have limitation that is similar to those of claim 41 wherein connections expand in space from input connections to the

first portion, and connections concentrate in space to output connections of the second portion, thus it is rejected with the same rationale applied against claim 41 above.

Regarding claims 6-8, 22-24, 44-46, and 47-51, these claims have limitation that is similar to those of claims 1, 17 and 43 wherein the prepare-to-switch signal is embedded in the second and third bytes of an STS-48 frame, thus it is rejected with the same rationale applied against claims 1, 17 and 43 above.

Regarding claims 9-12 and 25-28, these claims have limitation that is similar to those of claims 1 and 17 wherein it is obvious that the switches of the first and last stages are on common chips which is support respective framing time bases and expanded in space from input to output connections for all stages, thus it is rejected with the same rationale applied against claims 1 and 17 above.

Regarding claims 13-14 and 29-30, these claims have limitation that is similar to those of claims 1 and 17 wherein the prepare-to-switch signal from the master switch is in a signal as A1 in SONET which is qualified to distinguish the signal from the master switch from signals from other switches, thus it is rejected with the same rationale applied against claims 1 and 17 above.

Regarding claims 15-16 and 31-32, these claims have limitation that is similar to those of claims 1 and 17 wherein each switch comprises a time slot interchanger associated with each input and output port thereof and a space switch and the master switch is in a middle stage, thus it is rejected with the same rationale applied against claims 1 and 17 above.



***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claim 53 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and if no art rejection can be applied.

***Reason for indicating Allowable Subject Matter***

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art along or in combination fails to teach or make obvious the following limitations:

“the configuration storage at each switch is configured to store a primary time/space configuration table and a standby time/space configuration table and each switch is configured to switch between the primary and secondary tables in response to the configuration select signal” as recited in the dependent claim 53.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3129. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (571) 272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2616

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*rk*  
rkc

Richard Chang  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2616

  
**RICKY Q. NGO**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**